

Dear Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

I would like to thank the Commerce Committee for the opportunity to express my opposition to HB 5263, An Act Concerning the Processing of Rabbits for Consumption.

I care about animals and I vote, and I do not want to see my tax dollars used to promote the killing of rabbits. Rabbits are gentle creatures—smart and sociable with unique personalities—and are also the 3rd most common household pets after cats and dogs. Would you authorize the sale of cats or dogs for consumption? While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative, one that reminds one of the Korean dog meat market, in that it encourages the eating of pets.

Another concern is that if passed, HB 5263 may exacerbate spread of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV), a highly transmissible and fatal disease for wild and domestic rabbits that is spreading across the country.

And don't forget the danger of viruses like Covid-19 that jump the species barrier from animals to humans. The latest study in the news in the past week reinforced the theory that Covid-19 originated in the Wuhan Meat Market ([New Research Points to Wuhan Market as Pandemic Origin](#)). Why would you introduce a new species into the food chain now?

Please also keep in mind that due to public demand, many cosmetic companies no longer test on rabbits, many furriers no longer produce coats made from the pelts of rabbits, and laws have been passed that disallow sale of commercially bred rabbits in pet stores. Industry leaders PetSmart and Petco no longer sell rabbits. They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly oppose this barbaric piece of legislation.

Thank you,

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